

to diversity and his general tenacity and grit on the bench.

In his tenure in our courts of law, Judge McDonald displayed a fervent commitment to decency and democracy like no other. At 71 years of age he retired his robes and was remembered by his peers as a dedicated collaborator and mentor, providing leadership and discernment on challenging issues.

A Toledo resident, his life was one filled with love and devotion to family. His three grandsons look onto a great example of a legal legacy and a profoundly sweet man. His Wife, Holly Sydlow, shared his love of law in her career as an assistant U.S. attorney.

Judge McDonald led everyday with the intention of imparting his legal knowledge unto the next generation of impactful lawyers and legal professionals, passing the merits of his valuable tenure unto the future of our courts.

During his time in the courts, Judge McDonald saved all of his jury instructions from his years of trial digitally and passed them on to a currently seated Judge, thus his legacy and institutional knowledge will live on within the systems that miss him so.

Our courts and our hearts mourn the loss of Judge McDonald. I express my great sympathy for his family and all who were lucky enough to call him friend or peer.

IN RECOGNITION OF TOWNSHIP  
SUPERVISOR BRIAN LOFTUS

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 17, 2020*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brian Loftus and his years of distinguished service to Grosse Ile Township. His leadership and community impact are worthy of commendation.

In 2008, Brian Loftus became Grosse Ile Township Supervisor. In this position, Loftus has moderated the Board of Trustees, led the development of the township budget, overseen property assessment, and maintained township records. In addition, he has been a liaison to the Downtown Development Authority, served on the Elections Commission, and has appointed the members of a variety of other township commissions, among other tasks. Supervisor Loftus's leadership has come at a pivotal moment in our state's history. As communities across Michigan are grappling with the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, Supervisor Loftus has remained committed to ensuring Grosse Ile Township continues to be a vibrant, diverse, and welcoming residential community for all.

Supervisor Brian Loftus's sense of dedication transcends Grosse Ile Township. Prior to serving Grosse Ile as township supervisor, Loftus served our nation in uniform. Loftus joined the Air Force in 1970 and graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1974. He served on active duty as a pilot until being transferred to the Michigan Air National Guard in 1981, where he continued serving in several operation and staff duty positions until his retirement in September 2003. Over the course of 33 years of military service, Loftus has come to deeply understand the meaning of duty, sacrifice, and commitment to bettering one's community. Undoubtedly, he applied

these principles throughout his tenure as township supervisor.

In addition, Loftus has been an active member of several community organizations. He volunteers with the Grosse Ile Historical Society, Friends of the Detroit River, and the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Alliance, to name a few. Throughout all capacities, Loftus has been recognized as a humble and compassionate leader who strives to effect lasting change. He has been a strong voice for Grosse Ile Township and used his authority to bring the community together and positively impact the lives of countless residents. Loftus's impact will forever endure, and we are all grateful for his years of service to our community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Township Supervisor Brian Loftus. We are proud to celebrate his work, accomplishments, and significant community impact. We thank him for his outstanding leadership and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

HONORING WES AND JUDY PIERCE

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 17, 2020*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Wes and Judy Pierce, two incredible members of our Central Texas community who have devoted their energies and talents toward providing support and aid to our incredible servicemembers, veterans, first responders, and their families.

Originally from Illinois, Wes and Judy married in April 1987. Their journey from child rearing to becoming proud grandparents led them to Texas in 2001. After having five of their own sons serve in the military, Wes and Judy became increasingly aware of the unmet needs of our returning veterans. Through their own children's difficulties with accessing and finding resources, Heroes Night Out was born.

Heroes Night Out is a non-profit community-based organization that is dedicated to enhancing and supporting servicemembers, veterans, first responders, and their family members through programs and services in a caring and safe environment enhanced by the contributions of peers and battle buddies. HNO can quickly address the unique situations they experience by creating an immediate and trusting relationship.

Having nurtured Heroes Night Out into a valued part of the Central Texas community, Wes and Judy are passing the torch to a new generation of leadership. Their richly-deserved retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. I proudly join their friends and colleagues in gratitude for their enormous contributions to those who work and sacrifice so much for us.

**RANDY DECKER**

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 17, 2020*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to remember and honor Randy

Decker, a man of tremendous character who passed away on February 4, 2020 after a brief, yet brave battle with an aggressive illness.

The youngest of 12 children and the first to be born in a hospital, Randy was born on July 25, 1950. Randy was drafted and served in the U.S. Army. After, he attended Illinois State University where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Business. Family was always a priority for Randy. Randy was married to his beloved wife Mona Belle Decker for 49 years. Randy could always be found supporting his children, being involved in their various sports activities throughout the years. Randy spent his civilian career in sales management roles to provide for his family. In his latest years, raising and supporting his five grandchildren was one of his greatest joys. Randy will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery later this year.

Madam Speaker, I thank Randy Decker for his service and the impact he made in his community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL HUIZENGA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 17, 2020*

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes due to a death in the family. Had I been present for roll call vote number 219, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass S. 327, the Wounded Veterans Recreation Act, I would have voted "yay." Had I been present for roll call vote number 220, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass S. 3147, the Improving Safety and Security for Veterans Act, I would have voted "yay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARTHA ROBY**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 17, 2020*

Mrs. ROBY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Monday, November 16, 2020. Had I been present I would have voted as follows: YEA on Roll Call No. 219, and YEA on Roll Call No. 220.

IN HONOR OF JAMES C. WILCOX

**HON. JOHN JOYCE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 17, 2020*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor James C. Wilcox of Huntingdon County for his service in the United States Marine Corps. James is an outstanding Pennsylvanian, and I am grateful for his service to our nation, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and our community.

In Pennsylvania and across the country, our veterans have served and sacrificed for Americans' freedom and our values. They answered the call to serve and fight for us—at a great